

REMARKS

In connection with the above-identified RCE and in response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicant has amended the application and respectfully requests reconsideration thereof. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

Sections 3-8: Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 6, 36, 43-44, 57-59, 76-80, and 89 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,875,332 to Wang et al (hereinafter referred to as Wang).

Claims 4-5, 7-35, 37-38, 45-57, 60-73, 81-88, 90-101 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,892,905 to Brandt et al. (hereinafter referred to as Brandt).

While Applicant has elected to cancel claims 1-101 in this response, Applicant still respectfully disagrees with the rejection of claims 1-101 for the reasons and explanations provided in the response to the previous office action. Applicant has elected to cancel claims 1-101, without prejudice, solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals (PBG), 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (September 8, 2000). Therefore,

the cancellation of claims 1-101 should not be construed in anyway to limit the scope of the new claims 102-125.

To anticipate a claim, the prior art reference must teach every element of the claim. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil of California, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination must be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure. In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims 1-101 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Wang, either alone or in view of Brandt, for the reasons and explanations set out below.

As to the new claims 102 and 118, Applicant respectfully submits that Wang and Brandt do not teach, disclose, or suggest the following element:

"the first server presenting to the first configurer a second user interface which is constructed based on the format specification information extracted from the first form, the second user interface being used by the first

configurer to configure a set of functions to be performed by the first server in processing submissions of the first form, the set of functions including one or more functions being responsive to the values of one or more fields contained in the submissions of the first form"

Wang discloses a method and an apparatus for generating a Common Gateway Interface (CGI) adaptor customized for a stored procedure (Wang, Abstract, Col. 1, lines 44-46). The method and apparatus as disclosed in Wang includes a builder program (also called builder herein) that creates a CGI adaptor customized for the stored procedure. Wang discloses that the application developers can provide their stored procedure to the builder which creates a CGI adaptor customized for the stored procedure (Wang, Abstract, Col. 1, lines 47-49). Specifically, Wang discloses that, in order to generate or create the CGI adaptor, the builder parses the stored procedure (which is already written by the application developer) to identify the arguments of the stored procedure and then, using the stored procedure arguments, the builder generates logic to extract variables from an input data stream that correspond to the arguments of the stored procedure (Wang, Abstract, Col. 1, lines 46-55, Col. 2, lines 30-39, Figure 5). Wang discloses that an application developer needs to write an HTML input form and the stored procedure for that particular HTML form. The stored procedure

is then sent to the builder program which generates a CGI adaptor customized for the stored procedure. The CGI adaptor handles the input interface between the user input and the stored procedure (Wang, Col. 2, lines 29-39). Specifically, the CGI adaptor includes logic to extract variables from an input data stream, wherein the variables correspond to the arguments of the stored procedure (which is already written by the application developer), and invoke the store procedure using the variables extracted from the input data stream (Wang, Col. 2, lines 34-39).

However, Wang does not disclose or suggest any method, apparatus, or system that includes the above-recited element of the new claims 102 and 118. Specifically, Wang does not teach or suggest any mechanism or method that includes a user interface to allow a person (e.g., a configurer) to configure a set of functions to be performed by a server in processing submissions of a particular form that may be created by another person (e.g., a form author), the set of functions including one or more functions being responsive to the values of one or more fields contained in the submissions of the first form. In contrast, as described and explained above, Wang assumes that a particular stored procedure has already been written (i.e., stored procedure already exists) to process the submission of a particular form with the CGI adaptor handling the interface

between the user input data and the stored procedure (Wang, Col. 2, lines 29-39). In fact, according to Wang, an application developer needs to write an HTML input form and needs to write the stored procedure and further needs to ensure that the specific input variables used in the HTML form are the same as those in the stored procedure before sending the stored procedure to the builder for generating the CGI adaptor (Col. 2, lines 29-31). The CGI adaptor then receives input data from an HTML form, extracts therefrom the variables that correspond to arguments of the stored procedure and invokes the stored procedure with the extracted variables (Wang, Col. 2, lines 29-39, Col. 4, lines 43-49). There is no disclosure or suggestion of any provision provided for the application developer or another person to configure a set of functions to be performed in processing submissions of the HTML form. In fact, the application developer who writes the HTML input form also needs to write the stored procedure for that form before sending his stored procedure to the builder program for generating a CGI adaptor. Further, a restriction is placed on the html form in that its input fields must correspond to input variables in the stored procedure. No such restriction is placed in our claims, the first form is authored without constraint, with any set of input fields, by an independent author, on an independent authoring system and simply provided to the first server which

then parses this form to discover and extract these input fields. Again, Applicants are unable to find any disclosure or suggestion of any user interface that is presented by the server that parses the form and that is dependent on the format specification of the form to allow an application developer or another person to configure a set of functions to be performed in processing a particular form that is created by himself or someone else. Whereas the programmer who writes the stored procedure might in fact use some user interface like a text editor to create the stored procedure, this user interface is completely different from the user interface being claimed here:

- a. the interface as claimed in the above-recited element is presented by a first server that has parsed the form and extracted format specification from the form
- b. the interface as claimed is dependent on the form's format specification in order to present a contextually relevant interface for the configurer to configure a set of functions to be performed upon submission of the form
- c. furthermore, the set of functions configured here drive the behavior of the same first server in responding to form submissions.

Brandt discloses a system for accessing different application programs over the world wide web (WWW) via a common user interface (Brandt, Abstract, Col. 3, lines 57-65). Brandt

states that the system provides a graphical common user interface to multiple software applications by multiple software vendors from a web browser over the WWW (Brandt, Col. 9, lines 7-12). Specifically, the system as disclosed in Brandt includes one or more computers executing a web browser, a web server application, an application gateway, and at least one software application (Brandt, Col. 9, lines 11-14). Brandt states that the system allows a user to access multiple software applications using a common user interface as follows: the user inputs data via the web browser; the data is communicated to the web server application; the web server application authenticates the web browser and passes appropriate input data to an application gateway; the application gateway then facilitates a response to the request by formatting the appropriate commands to the software application; and the software application responds by outputting the appropriate data to the application gateway which includes an identifier that can be used to match the output data with the specific web browser that requested the output data (Brandt, Col. 9, lines 16-27). However, Brandt does not teach or suggest the above-recited element of the new claims 102 and 118. Specifically, Brandt does not teach or suggest any method, mechanism or system for allowing a person to configure a set of functions to be performed by a server in processing a submission of a form, the set of functions including one or more

functions being responsive to the values of one or more fields contained in the submissions of the first form. In contrast, the various software applications to be accessed by a common user interface as disclosed in Brandt already exist and Brandt does not disclose or suggest any system or method that includes a user interface to allow users to configure the functions or behavior of these software applications.

Because Wang and Brandt do not teach or suggest the above-recited element of the new claims 102 and 118, Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims 102 and 118 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Wang and Brandt, either alone or in combination.

Since claims 103-109 and 119-125 depend from claims 1102 and 118, respectively, and include additional limitations, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 103-109 and 119-125 are also not anticipated or rendered obvious by Wang and Brandt, either alone or in combination.

As to the new claims 110-117, Applicant respectfully submits that Wang and Brandt do not teach, disclose, or suggest the following element for the reasons and explanations provided above with respect to claims 102 and 118:

"logic to present to the first configurer a second user interface which is constructed based on the format specification information extracted from the first form, the second user interface being used by the first configurer to configure a set of functions to be performed

by the system in processing submissions of the first form, the set of functions including one or more functions being responsive to the values of one or more fields contained in the submissions of the first form."

Because Wang and Brandt do not teach or suggest the above-recited element of the new claims 110-117, Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 110-117 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Wang and Brandt, either alone or in combination.

Summary

Having made the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in a condition for allowance, which is now earnestly solicited.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The following new claims have been added in this response.

1 102. (New) A method comprising:

2 a first author creating a first form, the first form
3 including a set of fields , each field having one or more
4 field attributes, the set of fields constituting a format
5 specification of the first form;

6 a first server presenting a first user interface to a
7 first configurer, the first user interface being used by
8 the first configurer to provide the first form to the first
9 server,;

10 the first server parsing the first form provided by
11 the first configurer to extract format specification
12 information of the first form; and

13 the first server presenting to the first configurer a
14 second user interface which is constructed based on the
15 format specification information extracted from the first
16 form, the second user interface being used by the first
17 configurer to configure a set of functions to be performed
18 by the first server in processing submissions of the first
19 form, the set of functions including one or more functions

20 being responsive to the values of one or more fields
21 contained in the submissions of the first form.

1 103. (New) The method of claim 102 further including:
2 generating a first program including one or more
3 program components to perform the set of functions
4 configured by the first configurer in processing a
5 submission of the first form submitted by a first user, the
6 first program being designated as the program to process
7 submissions of the first form.

1 104. (New) The method of claim 102 further including:
2 generating a set of directives corresponding to the
3 set of functions configured by the first configurer, the
4 set of directives to be used by a first program that is
5 designated as the program to process submissions of a
6 plurality of forms including submissions of the first form.

1 105. (New) The method of claim 104 wherein the first
2 program is configured to process submissions of multiple
3 forms based upon multiple sets of directives, each set of
4 directives corresponding to the set of functions configured
5 for each form.

1 106. (New) The method of claim 102 wherein a configuration
2 data structure is created for the first form to include

3 configuration information provided by the first configurer
4 with respect to the set of functions to be performed in
5 response to a submission of the first form.

1 107. (New) The method of claim 106 further including:
2 maintaining consistency between the configuration data
3 structure and the format specification of the first form.

1 108. (New) The method of claim 107 wherein maintaining
2 consistency includes:
3 modifying the configuration information in the
4 configuration data structure in response to changes in the
5 format specification of the first form.

1 109. (New) The method of claim 107 wherein maintaining
2 consistency includes:

3 determining whether the format specification of the
4 first form has been changed since the configuration data
5 structure was created; and

6 if the format specification of the first form has been
7 changed since the configuration data structure was created,
8 updating the configuration data structure to reflect the
9 changes that have been made to the format specification of
10 the first form.

1 110. (New) A system comprising:

2 logic to present a first user interface to a first
3 configurer , the first user interface being used by the
4 first configurer to provide a first form to the system, the
5 first form being created by a first author and including a
6 set of fields, each field having one or more field
7 attributes, the set of fields constituting a format
8 specification of the first form;

9 logic to parse the first form provided by the first
10 configurer to extract format specification information of
11 the first form; and

12 logic to present to the first configurer a second user
13 interface which is constructed based on the format
14 specification information extracted from the first form,
15 the second user interface being used by the first
16 configurer to configure a set of functions to be performed
17 by the system in processing submissions of the first form,
18 the set of functions including one or more functions being
19 responsive to the values of one or more fields contained in
20 the submissions of the first form.

1 111. (New) The system of claim 110 further including:

2 logic to generate a first program including one or
3 more program components to perform the set of functions
4 configured by the first configurer in processing a

5 submission of the first form submitted by a first user, the
6 first program being designated as the program to process
7 submissions of the first form.

1 112. (New) The system of claim 110 further including:
2 logic to generate a set of directives corresponding to
3 the set of functions configured by the first configurer,
4 the set of directives to be used by a first program that is
5 designated as the program to process submissions of a
6 plurality of forms including submissions of the first form.

1 113. (New) The system of claim 112 wherein the first
2 program is configured to process submissions of multiple
3 forms based upon multiple sets of directives, each set of
4 directives corresponding to the set of functions configured
5 for each form.

1 114. (New) The system of claim 110 wherein a configuration
2 data structure is created for the first form to include
3 configuration information provided by the first configurer
4 with respect to the set of functions to be performed in
5 response to a submission of the first form.

1 115. (New) The system of claim 114 further including:

2 logic to maintain consistency between the
3 configuration data structure and the format specification
4 of the first form.

1 116. (New) The system of claim 115 wherein logic to
2 maintain consistency includes:

3 logic to modify the configuration information in the
4 configuration data structure in response to changes in the
5 format specification of the first form.

1 117. (New) The system of claim 115 wherein logic to
2 maintain consistency includes:

3 logic to determine whether the format specification of
4 the first form has been changed since the configuration
5 data structure was created; and

6 logic to update the configuration data structure to
7 reflect changes that have been made to the format
8 specification of the first form if the format specification
9 of the first form has been changed since the configuration
10 data structure was created.

1 118. (New) A machine-readable medium comprising
2 instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the
3 machine to perform operations including:

4 a first server presenting a first user interface to a
5 first configurer , the first user interface being used by
6 the first configurer to provide a first form to the first
7 server, the first form being created by a first author and
8 including a set of fields , each field having one or more
9 field attributes, the set of fields constituting a format
10 specification of the first form;

11 the first server parsing the first form provided by
12 the first configurer to extract format specification
13 information of the first form; and

14 the first server presenting to the first configurer a
15 second user interface which is constructed based on the
16 format specification information extracted from the first
17 form, the second user interface being used by the first
18 configurer to configure a set of functions to be performed
19 by the first server in processing submissions of the first
20 form, the set of functions including one or more functions
21 being responsive to the values of one or more fields
22 contained in the submissions of the first form.

1 119. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 118
2 further including:

3 generating a first program including one or more
4 program components to perform the set of functions

5 configured by the first configurer in processing a
6 submission of the first form submitted by a first user, the
7 first program being designated as the program to process
8 submissions of the first form.

1 120. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 118
2 further including:
3 generating a set of directives corresponding to the
4 set of functions configured by the first configurer, the
5 set of directives to be used by a first program that is
6 designated as the program to process submissions of a
7 plurality of forms including submissions of the first form.

1 121. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 120
2 wherein the first program is configured to process
3 submissions of multiple forms based upon multiple sets of
4 directives, each set of directives corresponding to the set
5 of functions configured for each form.

1 122. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 118
2 wherein a configuration data structure is created for the
3 first form to include configuration information provided by
4 the first configurer with respect to the set of functions
5 to be performed in response to a submission of the first
6 form.

1 123. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 122

2 further including:

3 maintaining consistency between the configuration data
4 structure and the format specification of the first form.

1 124. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 123

2 wherein maintaining consistency includes:

3 modifying the configuration information in the
4 configuration data structure in response to changes in the
5 format specification of the first form.

1 125. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 123

2 wherein maintaining consistency includes:

3 determining whether the format specification of the
4 first form has been changed since the configuration data
5 structure was created; and

6 if the format specification of the first form has been
7 changed since the configuration data structure was created,
8 updating the configuration data structure to reflect the
9 changes that have been made to the format specification of
10 the first form.

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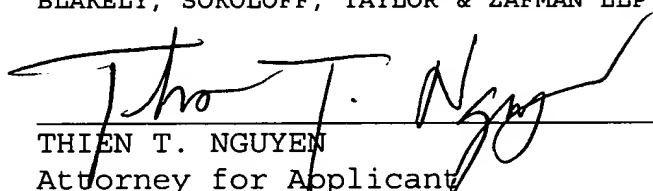
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such an extension.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

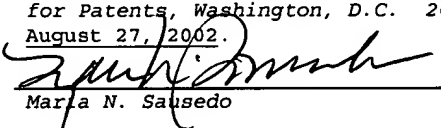
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: BOX AF, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on: August 27, 2002.


Maria N. Sausedo

8/27/02
Date